

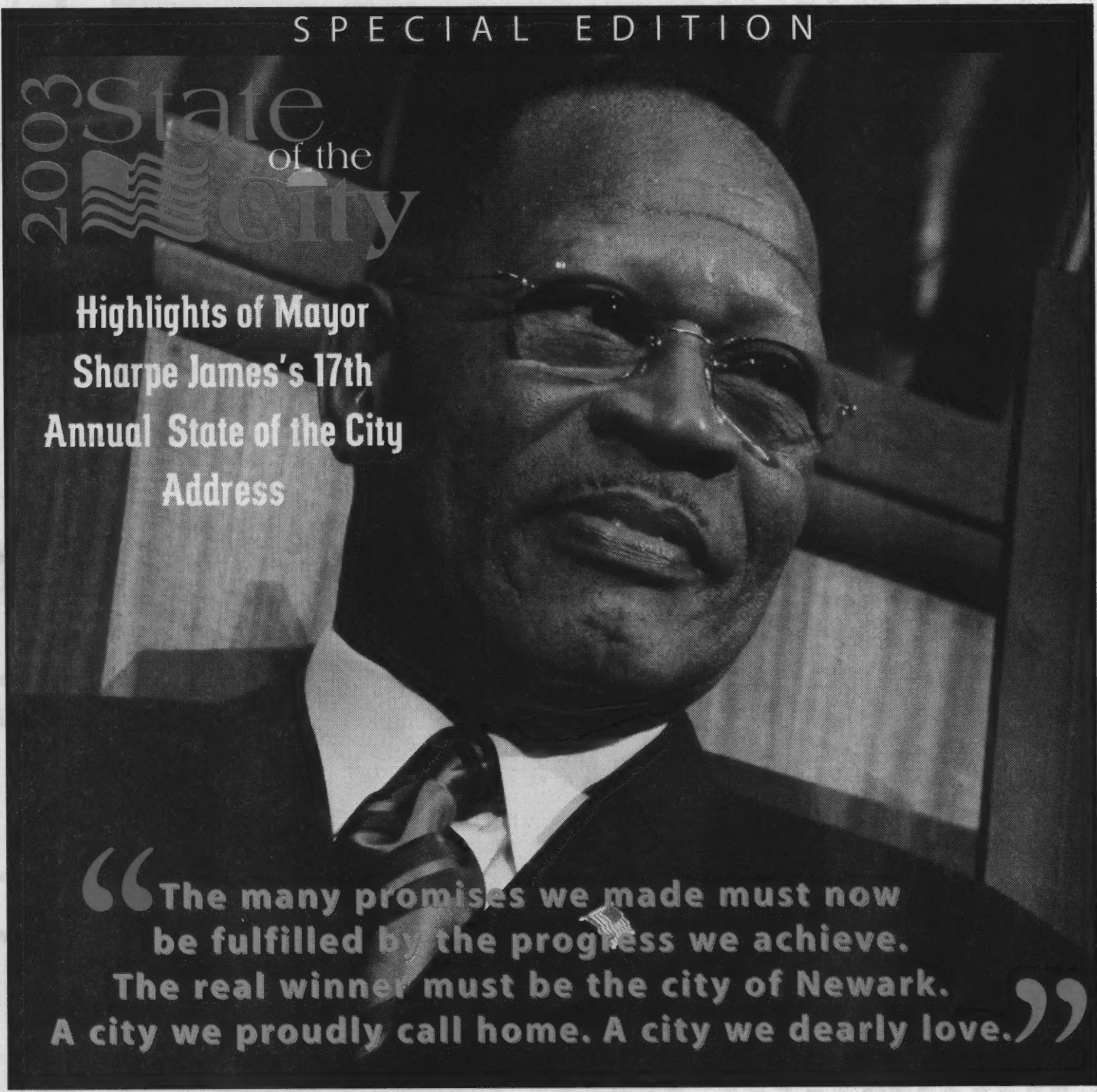
Spring 2003

Newark Citywide **Neighborhood** *News*

SPECIAL EDITION

2003 State
of the
City

Highlights of Mayor
Sharpe James's 17th
Annual State of the City
Address



**“The many promises we made must now
be fulfilled by the progress we achieve.
The real winner must be the city of Newark.
A city we proudly call home. A city we dearly love.”**

Vailsburg Ironbound Weehawken Park Rosemont Canneland Downtown Science Park Forest Newark Citywide **Neighborhood News** SPECIAL EDITION

State of the City

Highlights of Mayor Sharpe James's 17th Annual State of the City Address

meeting fiscal challenges: *newark does more with less*

“It was the worst of times last year when our city faced an enormous fiscal challenge in overcoming a potential \$60 million shortfall. Shortfalls like these have forced other cities, like New York, to impose major tax increases and lay

off large numbers of municipal personnel, while cutting services.

Instead, it became the best of times because of our fiscal prudence and revenue from our new lease on the airport and seaport that enabled us to balance the

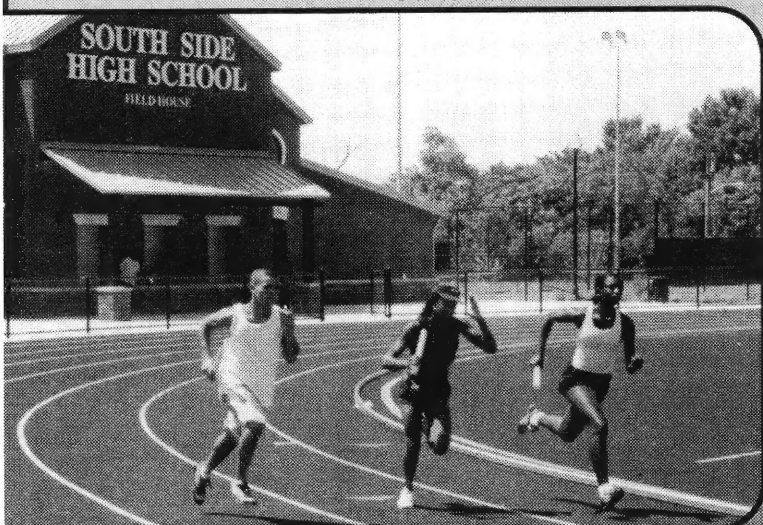
budget while keeping the same tax rate as last year. In 2002, we had no property tax increase. We had no layoffs, and we did not cut back on municipal services. Our city gained equity in the airport and seaport, raising the base rent from

\$18 million per year to \$68 million per year. We did what no other city in America was able to do. At a crisis time in our nation, we were able to identify new sources of revenue.”

U.S. Youth Games

“It was the best of times when Newark hosted the United States Youth Games for the first time since 1985, and more than 1,500 youngsters from cities across America converged on Newark to compete in this Olympic-style competition. Newark won gold medals in Boys' Basketball and Flag Football and in Girls' Bowling.

We also won the hearts of all the 1,500 athletes, coaches, and officials who came from across the nation. They voted the Newark Youth Games the best host, the most friendly and exciting environment, and offering the best facilities in Youth Games history.”



(above) Newark's Youth Games track team warms up at Shabazz Stadium. (right) The Newark team takes part in the Double Dutch competition at the Rutgers Golden Dome Athletic Center.



Public Safety

“Under the leadership of our new Police Director, Robert Rankin, we have continued to reduce crime in Newark and create a safer environment and a higher quality of life.

Last year, our Police Department cut homicides in Newark by 29 percent, robbery by 15 percent, aggravated assault by 19 percent, and violent crime overall by 17 percent. I congratulate the dedicated

and professional members of our Police Department for these achievements.

However, while we are proud of these accomplishments, we are aware that much remains to be done.

We still face the menace of car thieves and

drug dealers, who abuse our

neighborhoods and endanger our residents with their behavior. These people who group together for such unsavory activities are often called “gangs.” To address the gang issue, we have established several gang task forces, which will infiltrate, communicate and study the formation of gangs, in an attempt to change violence into positive behavior, or make arrests. Our police gang task force will not allow gangs to promote violence in our city.”



Newark fought crime with a number of special initiatives, including a task force that targeted crime on the Newark-Belleville border. Announcing the creation of the task force are: (l. to r.) Belleville Mayor Angie Paserchia, Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Newark Police Chief Anthony Ambrose and Belleville Police Chief Joseph Rotunda.

More 2002 State of the City Highlights

Homeland Security: "We applied for and gained a 10 million dollar federal grant for homeland security, which will be used to strengthen our police and other first responders in protecting our city from terrorism and weapons of mass destruction."

Transportation: "This year we will start construction of the first phase of a light rail link between Penn Station and the Broad Street Station, which will connect these two major stations by 2005, via NJPAC and the Bears and Eagles Riverfront Stadium. We will have a fast, efficient alternative to automobile traffic in Newark!"

Fire Safety: "In 2002, our Fire Department trained a new class of 48 Firefighter Recruits, who have joined the ranks to protect our residents and their homes. Our new firehouse at Clinton Avenue and Irvine Turner Boulevard is now 85 percent finished and will open this year."

Health: "Last year, the Department of Health and Human Services screened more than 10,500 children under the age of six for lead poisoning—a 12 percent increase over last year's figure. At the same time, we have seen a 55 percent decrease in the number of one- and two-year olds reported as lead poisoned. The agency recorded an 80 percent decrease in the total number of active lead cases from 2001."



NJ Transit Light Rail



"Last year, the department increased its amount of grant funding by about 6.5 million dollars, including an additional 1.8 million dollars in Ryan White Title I funding. Our program has become a national model for helping people living with HIV."

"One of our greatest successes has been the WIC Pediatric Health Van, which brings health support into our neighborhoods and communities."

(left) WIC Pediatric Van staff provide counseling for mothers in addition to such health services as immunizations.

City of Newark
920 Broad Street
Newark, NJ 07102

City of Newark
Sharpe James, *Mayor*

Municipal Council
Donald Bradley, *Council President & Councilman, South Ward*
Augusto Amador, *East Ward*
Charles Bell, *Central Ward*
Mamie Bridgeforth, *West Ward*
Hector Corchado, *North Ward*
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *At-Large*
Luis Quintana, *At-Large*
Donald Tucker, *At-Large*
Bessie Walker, *At-Large*

Richard Monteilh,
Business Administrator

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